

"The wildling Broom as sweet, which gracefully
Flings its long tresses, waving in golden beauty."

LONDON.

The corolla is of a bright golden yellow colour, with darker shades approaching to orange. It consists of several petals differing in formation, the upper one is large and broad, and is termed the standard (*vexillum*), the two sides or wings (*ala*) are spreading and converging inwardly, and the two lower pieces or keel (*carina*) are broad and blunt. It blooms in great beauty towards the end of May.

" — That delightful season when the broom,
Full flowered and visible in every steep,
Along the copses runs in veins of gold."

WORDSWORTH.

Many poets describe the broom to have a pleasant scent, and amongst the number Montgomery writes,

"The purple heath and golden broom,
Which scent the passing gale."

And another poet says,

"The wild rose, eglantine, and broom,
Wafted around their rich perfume."

Various medicinal properties are ascribed to the broom, and an infusion of the green stalks is said to remove obstructions of the liver and other parts,

and is famous in the dropsy and jaundice. Aris-
tomachus, a Greek writer on agriculture, affirms
that if the broom is near the spot bees will not
forsake their hives. The broom is the emblem of
humility, and to that sentiment we offer the fol-
lowing lines :—

" *Humility* is the softening shadow before the statue
of excellence,
And lieth lowly on the ground, beloved and lovely as
the violet;
Humility is the fair hair'd maid that calleth worth her
brother,
The gentle, silent nurse, that fostereth infant virtue;
Humility bringeth no excuse; she is welcome to God
and man;
Her countenance is needful unto all who would pros-
per in either world;
And the mild light of her sweet face is mirrored in the
eyes of her companions,
And straightway stand they accepted children of peni-
tence and love.
As when a blind man is nigh unto the rose, its sweet-
ness is herald of its beauty,
So when thou favourest *humility*, be sure thou art
nigh unto merit."

F. TUPPER.